

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:
YAKOV PINK
34 BEN YEHUDA STREET
CITY TOWER, 16TH FLOOR
JERUSALEM, ISRAEL 94230

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT AND
THE WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
SEARCHING AUTHORITY, OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 157072		Date of mailing (day/month/year)
International application No. PCT/IL04/00663		FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraphs 1 and 4 below
Applicant AP2U, NET LTD.		International filing date (day/month/year) 21 July 2004 (21.07.2004)

1. ☒ The applicant is hereby notified that the international search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority have been established and are transmitted herewith.
- Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:**
The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the international application (see Rule 46):
- When?** The time limit for filing such amendments is normally two months from the date of transmittal of the international search report.
- Where?** Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO, 34 chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, Facsimile No.: (41-22) 338.82.70.
- For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.**
2. ☐ The applicant is hereby notified that no international search report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority are transmitted herewith.
3. ☐ **With regard to the protest** against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:
- ☐ the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.
- ☐ no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.
4. **Reminders**
- Shortly after the expiration of **18 months** from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90*bis*.1 and 90*bis*.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.
- The applicant may submit comments on an informal basis on the written opinion of the International Searching Authority to the International Bureau. The International Bureau will send a copy of such comments to all designated Offices unless an international preliminary examination report has been or is to be established. These comments would also be made available to the public but not before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date.
- Within **19 months** from the priority date, but only in respect of some designated Offices, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase **until 30 months** from the priority date (in some Offices even later); otherwise, the applicant must, **within 20 months** from the priority date, perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before those designated Offices.
- In respect of other designated Offices, the time limit of **30 months** (or later) will apply even if no demand is filed within 19 months.
- See the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 and, for details about the applicable time limits, Office by Office, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II, National Chapters and the WIPO Internet site.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/ US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201	Authorized officer Zoila Cabrera Telephone No. 571-272-3738
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:
YAKOV PINK
34 BEN YEHUDA STREET
CITY TOWER, 16TH FLOOR
JERUSALEM, ISRAEL 94230

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 157072		Date of mailing (day/month/year)
FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below		
International application No. PCT/IL04/00663	International filing date (day/month/year) 21 July 2004 (21.07.2004)	Priority date (day/month/year) 23 July 2003 (23.07.2003)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC IPC(7): G05D 11/00; A01G 27/00 and US Cl.: 700/284; 239/69		
Applicant AP2U, NET LTD.		

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I | Basis of the opinion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. II | Priority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. III | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VI | Certain documents cited |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application |

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/ US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201	Date of completion of this opinion 21 December 2005 (21.12.2005)	Authorized officer Zoila Cabrera Telephone No. 571-272-3738
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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

PCT/IL04/00663

Box No. I Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

- ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
- ☐ a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b)).

2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material

- ☐ a sequence listing
- ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material

- ☐ on paper
- ☐ in electronic form

c. time of filing/furnishing

- ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in electronic form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

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Box No. II Priority

1. ☐ The validity of the priority claim has not been considered because the International Searching Authority does not have in its possession a copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed or, where required, a translation of that earlier application. This opinion has nevertheless been established on the assumption that the relevant date (Rules 43*bis*.1 and 64.1) is the claimed priority date.
2. ☐ This opinion has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid (Rules 43*bis*.1 and 64.1). Thus for the purposes of this opinion, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.
3. Additional observations, if necessary:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

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Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

☐ the entire international application

☐ claims Nos. _____

because:

☐ the said international application, or the said claim Nos. _____ relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international search (*specify*):

☐ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. _____ are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. _____ are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

☐ no international search report has been established for said claims Nos. _____

☐ a meaningful opinion could not be formed without the sequence listing; the applicant did not, within the prescribed time limit:

☐ furnish a sequence listing on paper complying with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions, and such listing was not available to the International Searching Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.

☐ furnish a sequence listing in electronic form complying with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions, and such listing was not available to the International Searching Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.

☐ pay the required late furnishing fee for the furnishing of a sequence listing in response to an invitation under Rules 13ter.1(a) or (b).

☐ a meaningful opinion could not be formed without the tables related to the sequence listings; the applicant did not, within the prescribed time limit, furnish such tables in electronic form complying with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-bis of the Administrative Instructions, and such tables were not available to the International Searching Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.

☐ the tables related to the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing, if in electronic form only, do not comply with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-bis of the Administrative Instructions.

☐ See Supplemental Box for further details.

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

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Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention

1. ☐ In response to the invitation (Form PCT/ISA/206) to pay additional fees the applicant has, within the applicable time limit:
 - ☐ paid additional fees
 - ☐ paid additional fees under protest and, where applicable, the protest fee
 - ☐ paid additional fees under protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid
 - ☐ not paid additional fees
2. ☐ This Authority found that the requirement of unity of invention is not complied with and chose not to invite the applicant to pay additional fees.
3. This Authority considers that the requirement of unity of invention in accordance with Rule 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is
 - ☐ complied with
 - ☐ not complied with for the following reasons:
4. Consequently, this opinion has been established in respect of the following parts of the international application:
 - ☐ all parts.
 - ☐ the parts relating to claims Nos. _____

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43 bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>3, 8-10, 14</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-2, 4-7, 11-13</u>	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims <u>NONE</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-14</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-14</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. Citations and explanations:

Claims 1-2, 4-7, 11-13 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by Mecham et al. (US, 6314,340).

Regarding claims 1-2, 4-7, and 11-13, Mecham discloses an irrigation controller comprising a plurality of area-controllers wherein each of said area-controllers are capable of collecting and transferring information (Fig. 6). Mecham further discloses central control unit for communicating with each said area-controllers wherein said central control unit includes computing means for updating or modifying an area-controller program (Fig. 6; Col. 12, line 35- Col. 13, line 16; Col. 16, line 33 - Col. 18, line 9). Mecham discloses that each of the evapotranspiration modules is given a unique address (Col. 16, lines 64-67). Mecham further discloses an alarm condition such as a possible freeze or frost condition (Col. 16, lines 26-32).

Claims 3 and 14 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Mecham et al. (US, 6314,340) in view of Petite et al. (US 6,437,692).

As for claims 3 and 14, Mecham discloses the limitations of claims 1 and 13 above but fails to disclose an Internet web site for communicating with the plurality of the controllers. However, Petite discloses such limitations (Fig. 8; Col. 13, lines 1-30). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have includes an Internet web site because it would provide an improved control system for monitoring a variety of environmental and/or other conditions within a defined remotely located region (Petite, Abstract).

Claims 8-9 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Mecham et al. (US, 6314,340) in view of Morgan (US 2003/0076281).

Regarding claims 8-9, Mecham discloses the limitations of claims 1 above and further discloses updating or modifying according to a predetermined criteria or sensors or commands from the program (Col. 13, lines 18- Col. 14, line 67). However, Mecham fails to disclose activating illumination according to the location area structure and time sequence. But Morgan discloses an illumination system for controlling the illumination of plants wherein plant growth can be accelerated by precisely controlling the spectrum of light they are grown in (Page 36, [0369]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included an illumination system as taught by Morgan because it would provide an improved system for illuminating plants being grown in a greenhouse environment (Morgan, [0369]).

Claim 10 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Mecham et al. (US, 6314,340) in view of Simon et al.

As for claim 10, Mecham discloses the limitations of claim 1 but fails to disclose a solar power supply. However, Simon discloses a solar power supply used in conjunction with an irrigation system (Col. 2, lines 43-53). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have includes a solar power supply because it would provide an improved control system by including a solar power supply as taught by Simon and thereby minimize the energy cost.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
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Box No. VI Certain documents cited

1. Certain published documents (Rules 43bis.1 and 70.10)

Application No.
Patent No.

Publication date
(day/month/year)

Filing date
(day/month/year)

Priority date (valid claim)
(day/month/year)

2. Non-written disclosures (Rules 43bis.1 and 70.9)

Kind of non-written disclosure

Date of non-written disclosure
(day/month/year)

Date of written disclosure referring to
non-written disclosure
(day/month/year)

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

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Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

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Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the questions whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/IL04/00663

Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.